Message Text

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TO DEPT OF TREASURY IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3636

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FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY BLUMENTHAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR

CORRRECTEDCOPYFORTEXTPARATHREE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OVIP, EFIN, SP

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF SPANISH FINANCE MINISTER

- 1. MINISTER OF FINANCE FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ CALLED ME FEBRUARY 28 TO SAY HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO TO THE U.S. FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 20-25. HE NOTED IT HAD BEEN A VERY LONG TIME SINCE A SPANISH CABINET MINISTER CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS HAD BEEN IN THE U.S. AND HE WOULD FIND IT VERY USEFUL IF HE COULD MEET WITH YOU TO GO OVER THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SPAIN. HE WOULD HAVE NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO MAKE AND I KNOW HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN SPAIN IN ITS DEALINGS WITH IMF. HE WOULD ALSO PLAN TO SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN NEW YORK.
- 2. I REMEMBER WITH APPRECIATION YOUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FUENTES QUINTANA AS WELL AS FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ WHEN THEY PLANNED THEIR TRIP TO THE U.S. LAST SEPTEMBER FOR THE BANK AND FUND MEETINGS. THEY HAD TO CANCEL THE TRIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE LAST MOMENT BECAUSE OF INTER-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO THE SO-CALLED MONCLOA PACT WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR THE SO-FAR RATHER SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC MEASURES OF THE GOS.

3. ALTHOUGH FUENTES QUINTANA HAS BEEN REPLACED AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BY FERNANDO ABRIL

MARTORELL, ABRIL IS BASICALLY A COORDINATING MINISTER WITH BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES.
THIS, THEREFORE, LEAVES FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ AS THE PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC MINISTER IN SPAIN. HE IS VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE U.S. AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, HAVING DONE GRADUATE WORK AT HARVARD WHERE HIS STUDIES CONCENTRATED ON THE VALUE-ADDED TAX. I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SOME TIME IN THE MARCH 20-25 PERIOD, POSSIBLY OFFERING HIM A WORKING LUNCH.

- 4. I SHALL BE SEEING FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ PRIVATELY ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN TELL HIM AT THAT TIME I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.
- 5. WARM REGARDS.STABLER

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